



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
September 24, 2018

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Pete Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Angie Boyter
Debbie Fleischmann
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Department of Community Resources and Services

Jackie Scott

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Sharonlee Vogel requested the agenda be amended to include nominations for Chair and Vice Chair during the Chair's Report. Pete Brunner motioned to approve the amended agenda and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Bob McLaughlin requested the minutes be changed to reflect the location of the transportation system discussed was Arlington, Texas not Arlington, Virginia. Andrew Monjan motioned to approve the minutes, and Jennifer Asher seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

The meeting began with Commissioners providing brief introductions and welcome to new Commissioner Mark Stinson.

50+ EXPO

Jennifer Asher led discussion of the Commission's booth at the upcoming 50+EXPO. The EXPO workgroup has drafted a new display board focused on providing attendees with practical information on living well in our community, saving money via tax credits, and planning for the future. The booth will feature handouts related to these areas; the group is looking for suggestions on suggestions for handouts related to living well in the community.

In addition, the group would like to purchase Commission on Aging sticky notes as a giveaway. Sharonlee Vogel moved that the purchase of Commission branded sticky notes move forward. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. All in favor.

Jennifer Asher also shared a sign up sheet for Commissioners to staff the EXPO booth.

Legislative Breakfast

Sharonlee reminded the Commission that Legislative Breakfast would be held 11/13 at 7:30am at the North Laurel Community Center. At October's meeting, the Commission will need to zero in on topics; if you have suggestions, please email Sharonlee. Topics can also be repeated from last year if there is new information to report or new questions to ask.

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin reported on his involvement with the Transportation Advisory Group which continues to advocate for friendly, on-demand transportation. Bob shared that the group is working to shift thinking between providing buses and providing transportation as there may be on-demand options which are both more efficient for the consumer and more cost effective.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

Andrew Monjan shared that while the group didn't meet over the summer they've continued to advance their partnership with Robinson Nature Center through the creating of a book club.

Eletta Morse provided the Commission with information on a meeting between the workgroup, Andre Lingham, and Howard County Police Chief Gary Gardner. The discussion revolved around older adults with cognitive changes and the lack of resources within the County. While a solution was not determined, all parties felt a multidisciplinary approach was needed. A potential model for a multidisciplinary team exists in Montgomery County.

Communications/Outreach

No report.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner reported on a defect in the existing law regarding the Aging in Place Tax Credit. In this case the spouse of a deceased veteran had been denied the credit. The County introduced legislation to address this loophole and it went into effect on September 1, 2018. Department of Finance staff were unaware of the change until it was brought to their attention; they granted the resident a one-time waiver to allow her to receive the credit, which doesn't resolve the ongoing education issue within the Department.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee shared that the state Commission on Aging would be meeting next week.

Sharonlee has received a copy of the PowerPoint on the Maryland Primary Care Program; email her if you would like a copy.

The Commission asked about a rumor that the Loan Closet would be moving. Jackie shared that the Loan Closet will be moving to a new location on Riverwood Drive in King's Contrivance in early 2019. The new space will be larger and there are hopes to serve a wider age range. The Commission also provided feedback on the new Loan Closet requirement that all equipment requires a provider referral. Susan Hailman shared her experience of her referral being declined as it was not on the required form.

Sharonlee requested nominations for chair and vice chair for the upcoming year. Bob McLaughlin nominated Sharonlee as chair and Jennifer Asher as vice chair. Eletta Morse seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

Office on Aging Report

Jackie Scott shared that she hopes to have an announcement about the Office on Aging administrator position within a week or two.

The Department's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention will be holding a free conference at Howard Community College on October 26.

Terri Hansen reminded the Commission about the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and the issues surrounding doing business by email.

Terri also provided the Commission with an update on plans for a new East Columbia 50+ Center. Completion of the project is about 2.5 years away. The goal is to break ground within the next year and then construction will take approximately 18 months. The planned center will be the largest in the county and will feature divisible multipurpose rooms, fitness and game rooms, art rooms, offices and classrooms. The goal is for the building to be certified LEED Silver or Gold.

New Business

None

Sharing from Commissioners

Andre Lingham shared that arrests have been made in contractor scams recently, including one case which involved an older adult.

Susan Hailman attended the Champions of Change Conference which focused on making community change through collaboration and partnerships and found that she learned new ideas for bringing people together.

Sue Song learned more about human trafficking which is the second largest crime in the US. In October, Korean seniors will be meeting with Howard County General Hospital to discuss equitable care.

Sharonlee recommended visiting Clean Water Howard to review the rain garden program which may help with the cost of creating a rain garden if you know of an area prone to flooding/pooling water.

Pete Brunner mentioned issues with both the county website and offshoot sites like CleanWaterHoward.org and how they should be designed with user friendliness in mind and not designed for ease of updating for staff. Pete will draft a letter to the County Executive to this effect.

Mark Stinson shared that there needs to be more awareness of tax credit programs and programs like SHIP and SpeakEasy.

Andrew Monjan reminded everyone of the Repair Café to be held at East Columbia.

Adjournment

Bob McLaughlin motioned to adjourn. Sue Song seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: October 22, 2018, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm